Amendments in the Specification

[0016] Embodiments of the present invention include methods and systems for efficientey query rewriting of search queries. **FIG. 1** depicts a high-level process flow of a method for efficient query rewriting in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. At 10, as shown in **FIG. 1**, past search queries that were submitted to a search engine are mapped to rewritten queries, wherein each of the rewritten queries is based on a past search query, a component (e.g., a segment) of a past search query, or multiple components of a past search query in accordance to predetermined conditions. At 20, the mapping is cached in a cache memory maintained by the search engine. At 30, the search engine receives a new search query. At 40, a look-up of the mapping in the cache memory is performed to obtain a corresponding rewritten query for the new search query. At 50, the search engine issues a search of the rewritten query in place of the new search query to obtain search results for the later.

[0022] The memory 156 contains the search engine 158, which searches for information from a backend data system 160 of the search site 150 in response to a search query from a user (i.e., user query) entered at, for example, a client device 102a and received by the search engine 158 through the network 106. In the embodiment shown, the backend data system 160 includes one or more index and document servers or databases (162 and 164). Although FIG. 2̶1̶ shows that the backend data system 160 includes only one index server 162 and one document server 164, it should be understood that such system can include multiple of either or both servers, depending on the amount of data the search site 150 wishes to store and access for user queries.